

HIS

To HISS. *v. a.* [pipean, Saxon.]

1. To condemn by hissing; to explode.

Every one will hiss him out of his disgrace. *Euch. xxii. 1.*

Men shall pursue with merited disgrace;

Hiss, clap their hands, and from his country chase. *Sandys.*

She would so shamefully fail in the last act, that, instead of

a plaudite, she would deserve to be hissed off the stage. *More.*

I have seen many successions of men, who have shot them-

selves into the world, some bolting out upon the stage with

vast applause, and others hissed off, and quitting it with dis-

grace. *Dryden.*

Will you venture your all upon a cause, which would be

hissed out of all the courts as ridiculous? *Collier on Duelling.*

2. To procure hisses or disgrace.

Thy mother plays, and I

Play too; but so disgrac'd a part, whose issue

Will hiss me to my grave. *Shakef. Winter's Tale.*

What's the newest grief?

—That of an hour's age doth hiss the speaker,

Each minute teems a new one. *Shakespeare's Macbeth.*

Hiss. *n. f.* [from the verb.]

1. The voice of a serpent, and of some other animals.

2. Censure; expression of contempt used in theatres.

He heard

On all sides, from innumerable tongues,

A dismal universal hiss, the sound

Of publick scorn! *Milton's Paradise Lost, b. x.*

Pierce champion fortitude, that knows no fears

Of hisses, blows, or want, or loss of ears. *Pope's Dunciad.*

Hiss. *interj.* [Of this word I know not the original: probably

it may be a corruption of *hush*, *hush it*, *hush it*, *hush it*.] An excla-

mation commanding silence.

Hiss! Romeo, hiss! O for a falconer's voice,

To lure this tassel gentle back again. *Shakef. Rom. and Jul.*

Mute silence hiss along!

'Lest Philomel will deign a song,

In her sweetest saddest plight, *Milton.*

Smoothing the rugged brow of night.

Hiss, hiss, says another that stood by, away, doctor, for

here's a whole pack of dilmals coming. *Swift.*

HISTORIAN. *n. f.* [historicus, Latin; historien, French.] A

writer of facts and events; a writer of history.

What thanks sufficient, or what recompence

Equal, have I to render thee, divine

Historian! *Milton's Paradise Lost, b. viii.*

Our country, which has produced writers of the first figure

in every other kind of work, has been very barren in good

historians. *Addison's Freeholder.*

Not added years on years my task could close,

The long historian of my country's woes. *Pope's Odyssey.*

HISTORICAL. *adj.* [historique, Fr. historicus, Latin.]

HISTORICK. *adj.* [historique, Fr. historicus, Latin.]

1. Containing or giving an account of facts and events.

Because the beginning seemeth abrupt, it needs that you

know the occasion of these several adventures; for the meth-

od of a poet historical is not such as of an historiogra-

pher. *Spenser.*

Here rising bold, the patriot's honest face;

There warriors frowning in historick bras. *Pope.*

2. Suitable or pertaining to history or narrative.

In an historical relation we use terms that are most proper

and best known. *Barnet's Theory of the Earth.*

With equal justice and historick care,

Their laws, their toils, their arms with his compare. *Prior.*

HISTORICALLY. *adv.* [from historical.] In the manner of

history; by way of narration.

The gospels, which are weekly read, do all historically de-

clare something which our Lord Jesus Christ himself either

spoke, did, or suffered in his own person. *Hooker, b. v.*

When that which the word of God doth but deliver histo-

rically, we construe as if it were legally meant, and so urge it

further than we can prove it was intended, do we not add to

the laws of God? *Hooker, b. iii. f. 5.*

After his life has been rather invented than written, I shall

consider him historically as an author, with regard to those

works he has left behind him. *Pope's Essay on Homer.*

To HISTORIFY. *v. a.* [from history.] To relate; to record

in history.

O, muse, glorify

Her praise, whose praise to learn your skill hath framed

me. *Sidney, b. i.*

The third age they term historicon; that is, such wherein

matters have been more truly historified, and therefore may

be believed. *Brown's Vulgar Errors, b. vi. c. 6.*

HISTORIOGRAPHY. *n. f.* [historia and grapho; historiographie,

Fr.] An historian; a writer of history.

Because the beginning seemeth abrupt, it needs that you

know the occasion of these knights several adventures; for the

method of a poet historical is not such as of an historiogra-

pher. *Spenser.*

What poor ideas must strangers conceive of these persons

HIT

who have been famous among us, should they form their no-

tions of them from the writings of those our historiographers?

Addison's Freeholder, No. 35.

I put the journals of all transactions into a strong box, after

the manner of the historiographers of some eastern monarchs.

Arbutnot's History of John Bull.

HISTORIOGRAPHY. *n. f.* [historia and grapho; historiographie,

Fr.] The art or

employment of an historian.

HISTORY. *n. f.* [historia; historia, Latin; histoire, French.]

1. A narration of events and facts delivered with dignity.

Justly Caesar scorns the poet's lays;

It is to history he trusts for praise. *Pope.*

2. Narration; relation.

The history part lay within a little room. *Wifeman's Surgery.*

What histories of toil could I declare?

But still long-weary'd nature wants repair. *Pope's Odyssey.*

3. The knowledge of facts and events.

History, so far as it relates to the affairs of the Bible, is

necessary to divines. *Watts's Improvement of the Mind.*

HISTORY PICTURE. *n. f.* A picture representing some memorable

event.

The former makes his works resemble a large history piece,

where even the less important figures have some convenient

place. *Pope's Essay on Homer's Battles.*

HISTORIONICAL. *adj.* [from historion, Latin; historion, Fr.]

HISTORIONICK. *adj.* [from historion, Latin; historion, Fr.]

1. Benefiting the stage; suitable to a player;

becoming a buffoon; theatrical.

HISTORIONICALLY. *adv.* [from historionical.] Theatrically; in

the manner of a buffoon.

To HIT. *v. a.* [from idus, Latin, Minshew, from hitte, Danish,

to throw at random, Junius.]

1. To strike; to touch with a blow.

When I first saw her I was presently stricken; and I, like a

foolish child, that when any thing hits him will strike himself

again upon it, would needs look again, as though I would per-

suade mine eyes that they were deceived. *Sidney, b. i.*

His conscience shall hit him in the teeth, and tell him his

sin and folly. *South's Sermon.*

2. To touch the mark; not to miss.

Is he a god that ever flies the light?

Or naked he, disguis'd in all untruth?

If he be blind, how hitteth he so right? *Sidney, b. ii.*

So hard it is to tremble, and not to err, and to hit the

mark with a shaking hand. *South's Sermon.*

3. To attain; to reach the point.

Were I but twenty-one,

Your father's image is so hit in you,

His very air, that I should call you brother,

As I did him. *Shakespeare's Winter's Tale.*

Search every comment that your care can find,

Some here, some there, may hit the poet's mind. *Reform.*

Birds learning tunes, and their endeavours to hit the notes

right, put it past doubt that they have perception, and retain

ideas, and use them for patterns. *Lake.*

Here's an opportunity to shew how great a bungler my au-

thor is in hitting features. *Antiquary.*

4. To strike a ruling passion.

Hail, divinest melancholy!

Whose faintly visage is too bright

To hit the sense of human sight. *Milton.*

There you hit him: St. Dominick loves charity exceeding-

ly; that argument never fails with him. *Dryden's Spanish Fryar.*

5. To HIT off. To strike out; to fix or determine luckily.

What prince soever can hit off this great secret, need know

no more either for his own safety, or that of the people he

governs. *Temple.*

6. To HIT out. To perform by good luck.

Having the found of these ancient poets still ringing in his

ears, he mought needs in fingering hit out some of their tunes.

Spenser's Pastoral.

To HIT. *v. n.*

1. To clash; to collide.

If bodies be extension alone, how can they move and hit

one against another; or what can make distinct surfaces in a

uniform extension? *Lake.*

The bones, teeth, and shells being sustained in the water

with these metallic corpuscles, and the said corpuscles meet-

ing with and hitting upon those bodies, become conjoined with

them. *Woodward's Natural History.*

2. To chance luckily; to succeed by accident; not to miss.

Of expectation fails, and most oft there

Where most it promises; and oft it hits

Where hope is coldest, and despair most fits. *Shakespeare.*

There is a kind of conveying of effectual and imprinting

passages amongst compliments, which is of singular use, if a

man can hit upon it. *Bacon's Essay 53.*

3. To succeed; not to miscarry.

The experiment of binding of thoughts would be diver-

sified, and you are to note whether it hits for the most part.

Eaton's Natural History.

Est

HIT

But thou bring'st valour too and wit, *Hudibras, p. i.*

Two things that seldom fail to hit.

This may hit, 'tis more than barely possible; for friars have

free admittance into every house. *Dryden's Spanish Fryar.*

All human race would fain be wits,

And millions miss for one that hits. *Swift.*

4. To light on.

You've hit upon the very string, which touch'd,

Echoes the found, and jars within my soul;

There lies my grief. *Dryden's Spanish Fryar.*

It is much, if men were from eternity, that they should

not find out the way of writing before that time: sure he

was a fortunate man, who, after men had been eternally so

dull as not to find it out, had the luck at last to hit upon

it. *Tillotson's Sermons.*

There's a just medium betwixt eating too much and too lit-

tle; and this dame had hit upon it, when the matter was so

ordered that the hen brought her every day an egg. *L'Estr.*

None of them hit upon the art. *Addison's Guardian.*

There's but a true and a false prediction in any telling of

fortune; and a man that never hits on the right side, cannot be

called a bad guesser, but must miss out of design. *Bentley.*

HIT. *n. f.* [from the verb.]

1. A stroke.

The king hath laid, that in a dozen passes between you and

him, he shall not exceed you three hits. *Shakef. Hamlet.*

So he the fam'd Cilician fencer prais'd,

And at each hit with wonder seem'd amaz'd. *Dryd. Juven.*

2. A lucky chance.

Have all his ventures fail'd? What, not one hit? *Shak.*

To suppose a watch, by the blind hits of chance, to per-

form diversity of orderly motions, without the regulation of

art, this were the more pardonable absurdity. *Glarville.*

If the rule we judge by be uncertain, it is odds but we

shall judge wrong; and if we should judge right, yet it is not

properly skill, but chance; not a true judgment, but a lucky

hit. *South's Sermons.*

But with more lucky hit than those

That use to make the stars depose. *Hudibras, p. i.*

The fisherman's waiting, and the lucky hit it had in the

conclusion, tells us, that honest endeavours will not fail. *L'Estr.*

These hits of words a true poet often finds, without seek-

ing. *Dryden's Dunciad.*

If casual concurrence did the world compose,

And things and hits fortuitous arose,

Then any thing might come from any thing;

For how from chance can constant order spring? *Blackmore.*

If at first he minds his hits,

And drinks champagne among the wits,

Five deep he toasts the tow'ring lassies. *Prior.*

To HIT. *v. n.* [hican, Saxon, or hican, French. *Skinner.*]

1. To catch; to move by jerks. I know not where it is used but

in the following passage.

Whoe'er offends, at some unlucky time

Slides in a verse, or hitches in a rhyme;

Sacred to ridicule his whole life long,

And the sad burden of some merry song. *Pope's Horace.*

To HITCHEL. *v. a.* [See HITCHEL.] To beat or comb flax

or hemp.

HITCHEL. *n. f.* [heckel, German.] The instrument with which

flax is beaten or combed.